

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 ROBERT J. HOWELL, JR.,

14 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR21-0190-JCC

ORDER

15 This matter comes before the Court on Defendant's request to stay the pretrial motions
16 briefing deadline (Dkt. No. 85). Having thoroughly considered the parties' briefing and the
17 relevant record, the Court hereby GRANTS the motion.

18 Defendant filed combined pretrial motions on August 16, 2024. (See Dkt. No. 74.)
19 However, before those motions were fully briefed, Defense counsel, at Defendant's request,
20 moved *ex parte* for a *Farett*a hearing, seeking to proceed in this matter *pro se*. (See Dkt. No. 79.)
21 The hearing on that motion is set for September 19, 2024. (See Dkt. No. 80.) The Government
22 filed its response to Defendant's combined pretrial motions on September 13, 2024. (See Dkt.
23 No. 82.) Defendant's reply is due on September 27, 2024. (See Dkt. No. 69.)

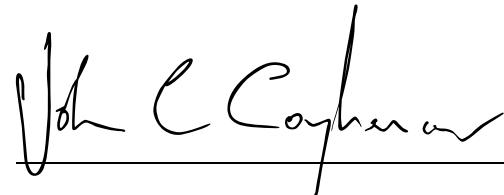
24 Now, Defendant seeks to stay the deadline to reply to the Government's response,
25 pending disposition of his *Farett*a motion. (See Dkt. No. 85.) Defense counsel represents that,
26 upon learning of their client's concerns, "counsel had to pause ongoing expert work and legal

1 research related to the combined pretrial motion.” (Dkt. No. 85 at 1.) The Government opposes.
2 (See generally Dkt. No. 86.) It indicates that while it “is acutely aware that the current case
3 schedule may be substantially altered by Howell’s recent request for a change in counsel,” it
4 nevertheless contends that a stay “will impose additional, and potentially unnecessary delay, in
5 the resolution of these motions,” and thus “place the parties in the position of having to prepare
6 for both dispositive motions and a trial simultaneously.” (*Id.* at 2.) The Court is unconvinced—a
7 stay of Defendant’s deadline to submit his reply is hardly an “unnecessary delay” in light of the
8 fact that Defendant is currently seeking to forgo the assistance of counsel entirely.

9 Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Defendant’s motion to stay the pretrial motions
10 briefing schedule (Dkt. No. 85) pending disposition of Defendant’s motion for a *Farett*a hearing
11 (Dkt. No. 79).

12 DATED this 16th day of September 2024.

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John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE